

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/782,453

Examiner

Tony H. Winner

Applicant(s)

HUSAIN ET AL.

Art Unit

3611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an application filed 2/18/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-40.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/29/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Lawrence G. Almeda on 11/22/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

- a. Line 2 of the abstract the phrase "The present invention comprises" has been deleted,
- b. Lines 9-10 of the abstract the phrase "of the present invention" has been deleted,
- c. Line 17 the word "means" has been replaced with "device".

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. Claims 1-40 are allowed because the prior art neither shows nor teaches a motor vehicle steering system comprises of a plurality of steer-by-wire mode wherein, in the steer-by-wire mode with rear steering the controller maintains the clutch mechanism in a disengaged state and the controller operates the driver interface system and the front and rear road wheel actuator system such that the motor vehicle is electronically steerable, and in the steer-by-wire mode without rear steering the controller maintains the clutch mechanism in a disengaged state and the controller operates the driver

interface system and the front road wheel actuator system such that the motor vehicle is electronically steerable, and in the EPAS mode with rear steering the controller causes the clutch mechanism to engage and selectively causes one of the road wheel actuator system or the driver interface system to provide electronic power assist steering while controlling the rear steering, and in the EPAS mode without rear steering the controller causes the clutch mechanism to engage and selectively causes one of the road wheel actuator system or the driver interface system to provide electronic power assist steering while deactivating the rear steering, and in the backup mode with rear steering, the controller causes the clutch mechanism to engage such that the motor vehicle is mechanically steerable while controlling the rear steering, and in the manual backup mode without rear steering, the controller causes the clutch mechanism to engage such that the motor vehicle is mechanically steerable while deactivating the rear steering .

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony H. Winner whose telephone number is (703) 306-5957. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30am to 6:00pm.

4. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris, can be reached on (703) 308-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-9306.

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information-Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.



TONY WINNER
PATENT EXAMINER

November 22, 2004